

Boston, Dec. 4. 1854. -

Dear Miss Estlin -

On Friday last the Bristol Box of Contributions to the Antislavery Bazaar was opened, Miss Anne Weston, Miss Deborah W., and some others being present. Every thing appeared in the very best order. Several other boxes were opened also, and out of them a selection of articles was made, filling a box about one-third of the size of the Bristol box, to go to the Philadelphia Fair, which is to commence on the eve of the 6th. The box was sent off on Saturday, and we are assured will probably reach Phila. Tuesday morning (tomorrow). The Philadelphia ladies requested this contribution, inasmuch as they had not ^{received} the amount of European contributions this year which they had last year, and the Boston ladies were very glad to comply with the request. If the Phila. Fair had been 2 or 3 weeks later, - Miss Weston said - a much larger ^{therefore} ~~and~~ more valuable contribution might have been sent; inasmuch as then all the Boston boxes would have come to hand, whereas now but a few have arrived. - Miss Weston thought it would be a pleasant thing to your Bristol contributors, that a portion of your gifts should go to Philadelphia, with whose Abolitionists

intimate
you have formed so ~~pleasant~~ a connection,
by means of Miss Pugh & Mr. McKim. —
The box was not carefully and fully examined
— that work remains to be done — the design
in opening it thus early being solely to send
a selection to Phil'a; — but I was glad to
see a parcel of your father's tract, and in so
neat & improved an edition as this, which the
Leeds Association has printed. I thank him
most sincerely for the copy which he sent to
me, and I have had much pleasure in
distributing those which he directed to Messrs. Garrison,
Phillips, & others, & to Miss Weston. Miss W.
was quite charmed with her copy, and to see
your father's hand-writing, as she said, as
clear, distinct, & firm (apparently) as ever.
We have had very favourable accounts of his
health, & that he was in no wise a sufferer
by your visit to Dublin. — I have had a
letter from Miss Eliza Wigham of Edinburgh,
— the first one I have ever had from her, or
any Edinburgh Abolitionist — partly on
business; — she speaks of having met you at Dublin
and gives pleasant mention of her knowledge
of you & your father. It must have been very
gratifying for the representatives of England, Scotland,
and Ireland, to meet thus together. I presume
the interests of the Antislavery Cause were not
forgotten. — A short note from Mr. Webb also
speaks of your visit there, as a matter of very
great satisfaction and enjoyment to himself & others.

In the hurried note which I am writing
you (with a very poor pen, & unable hands
to lay my hand upon another), - a note which,
if it goes by to-day's Steamer (for I am now
writing on the morning of Dec. 7th), must be a
short one, I can hardly touch upon our American
affairs. Not that there is anything very new
or striking to communicate, perhaps; but the
Demon of Slavery, who now stalks boldly &
shamelessly up & down the land, seeking
whom it may devour & what good thing is left
for it "to crush out", is always planning
doing some infernal business, which need be
a surprise to nobody, but is nevertheless
startling to those who have not learned and
understood its true character, as well as the
Abolitionists have done. The last move, in
our Section of the Country, is to indict Theodore
Parker, J. W. Higginson, & several others for
resisting violently, &c. &c. the United States Marshal
at the time of the Kidnapping of Anthony Burns
in May last. Very few here believed that a Grand
Jury could be found who would find bills of indictment
for this cause. But a thoroughly unprincipled U.S.
District Attorney, in the hands of such God-forsaken
wretches as President Pierce and his Attorney
General Caleb B. Smith (the worst man that lives)
has continued to get a Grand Jury together, &

majority of whom has agreed to find them guilty
of indictment. The men have all given
bail to appear & take their trial before the
U.S. Circuit Court in March next. It remains
to be seen if a jury of 12 men can be found to
convict them. I hold it morally impossible
to convict Theodore Parker, but a picked
jury, with B. F. Hallett to manage them,
(if we are doomed to see such a degrading
sight in Boston) will not stick at trifles.

— Wendell Phillips is said to be among
the number indicted; but he is absent on
a long lecturing tour, and the warrant is
not yet served. I have no doubt that it
will be, on his return. — A gloriously free
Country — is it not? — that indicts men
for teaching in Faneuil Hall, the doctrines
of liberty, and for denouncing so odious a
Law as that for the recovery of Fugitive Slaves.
But the villains are doomed to defeat and
disgrace. Even a temporary success in their
malicious schemes will only re-act upon the
own heads. Nothing would so effectually render
the names of Parker, Higginson, Phillips, famous and
honourable as a public penalty for denouncing the
Fugitive Slave Law. — We of course shall do every thing
in our power to render these tools of Slavery as hateful
as they deserve to be. — I speak of Judges Curtis & Sprague
— Hallett the Attorney — & Freeman (!) the U.S. District Marshal.

None can be less surprised than the Abolitionists
at the passage of the Nebraska Slavery Bill. We
have seen & declared it from the first, though
of course hopeful that we might, for once, prove
mistaken. But we should be indeed very dull
learners if the 20 years' schooling we have had
in the craft, forecast, & all but omnipotence of the
Slave Power had not taught us that it never fails
of its object - never fails to gain what it covets -
never fails to carry any point it desires.

The North will be aroused, I am disposed to think,
to some unusual demonstration. But just what it
will be, I will not undertake to predict, - nor whether
it will possess any living power.

To-day I have your brief note, informing of Pillsbury's
departure from Bristol with Mr. Hovey, - with news of
him in London. I learn that W. Phillips has a ~~very~~
~~rather~~ letter from Paris, speaking of P.'s safe arrival there,
but I heard no further particulars of his journey
thither or his health. It was said that Mr. Hovey
would return to America in June. 'Twill be a great
disappointment to Pillsbury to lose his society & friendly
counsel so soon.

I shall say but very little - even to you, dear
friend Mary - of the matter between Mr. Pillsbury
and myself (for he makes it very much of a personal
~~aff~~ matter, in his letter to Mr. Garrison, both as related
to himself & myself) - and the least said is soonest
mended.

But if the Exec. Committee, or I, were disposed to
take offence, ^(which of course are not) surely we might deem ourselves very
hardly used by our excellent old fellow-soldier, when
he virtually charges us with suspecting him of becoming
new-organised, and ~~with~~ ranking him somewhere with (or
below) Pennington, Garnett, & other malignant foes of the American
Anti-Slavery Society who have visited England. A part
of this is doubtless to be attributed to the effects of his
severe sickness; but not all. A good share is, I think
ascribable to an exceedingly sensitive, & morbidly-
sensitive nature; - not only that excellent quickness
of moral feeling & personal honour, "which feels a
stain like a wound", - but ~~that~~ ^a too great readiness to
imagine a want of moral confidence, where nothing more
than difference of opinion had been expressed or implied.
I am certain that my letter could have expressed
nothing more than a difference of opinion, and ^{if} I
ascribed to P.P. any opinion, or expression, about the
Standard that he did not entertain, ^{or use,} ~~why~~ that
was not to be laid to my charge, but to that of our
good friend ~~also~~ Webb, who very distinctly stated what
he understood P.P. to say, not only in one but in
repeated conversations, & who has re-affirmed, in
a second note to me, ~~that~~ his original understanding.
- My haste to reply to R.D.W.'s first note (not willing to
lose a single steamer) - ^{to Garrison, Quincy, & Phillips} & my showing Mr. W.'s letter to me
& my reply to it (which I deemed ^{to be} ~~only~~ my duty, that I
might not mis-represent those for whom I undertook
to speak), are points which seem to aggravate, in P.P.'s
mind, the other qualities of my letter. My only excuse
for not procrastinating my reply is, that we every one of us

I have also rec^d. (from the Edinburgh box) the copies of Mr. James's Memoirs, designed for Messrs. Nottingham & Norman. These I will forward. — I am sending this week to R.D. Webb, a parcel of the Pamphlet, containing Proceedings of the Anniversary Meeting of the Boston Proslavery Mob of 1835. I have addressed a number to Bristol friends, which I hope will duly reach you.

If you are writing to P. Pillsbury, please assure him of my sincere thanks for his various very interesting letters. I am expecting, & determined to have, a little season to write to him soon, & pay off a small part of my debt.

Mr. Garrison has gone to Phil^a, to attend the Annual Meeting there, & give some Lectures besides. Mr. Hovey accompanied him. It is longer than usual since I heard any particulars from Phil^a friends. They have been much engrossed in Papsmore Williamson's case, — which did not turn out quite as well as might be desired, mainly owing I suppose to the eagerness of Williamson's lawyers to have him released.

In a recent Note you kindly promised to send me a parcel of the little documents & missives which your Father prepared & circulated. I should like them very much indeed. I have now a large number of them — not far from complete. — I am wanting especially a "Clerical Teachings", and one or more of his Annual Papers on the Frogmore St. Dispensary. These I had, but I have looked in vain to find them. Probably I gave them away. He sent me several of the Dispensary papers, I recollect.

Mrs. Follen is living at Brookline, but her best P.O. address would be Boston — either to care of C. Follen Esq. architect, State St. or to No. 21 Cornhill.

Are you at home again? And what is the state of your health? There are questions ^{the latter particularly} I should like a favourable answer to. Mr. Webb told me you had 300 letters to answer, which came to you after your father's death. Each writer, I suppose, did not think much of the burden he was adding; and I may

into a similar mistake now. Only, don't you take
time from the memoir, nor from any important ma-
in order to answer my letters. I hope you will have
quiet, leisure, strength to prepare that work. But
can forewarn you that you have (I presume) no idea
whatever of the time and labour it will require. To prepare
my brief & imperfect Notice has taken four times the time that I
anticipated. Your father's journal of 50 years - his immense
correspondence, not on one topic but many, - and his other Mss.
papers must require years of time for the full digesting and
condensing. But then you are more systematic than I, I doubt
not, and will work with greater facility. I hope you may have
a good deal of aid in copying, arranging, &c.

Did you ever receive Mr. Garrison's communication,
containing the Resolutions of the Executive Committee of American
Antislavery Society, on your father's decease? Mr. Chapman then
she remembered you speaking of them. I do not think you
have mentioned them in your notes to me.

I hope to write you more at length soon. Now the
mailing-time is arrived, and I must stop. - We
feel badly at ^{not} having the personal presence of Anne and
Deborah Weston at the Bazaar this year; but they cannot
Then father's death was a terrible shock to them, - to Anne
especially. Death seems to her, a fearful visitation. It is
something new and surprising. - They are doing all they
can, at Weymouth, in the way of help & preparation. It is
most fortunate for us that Mr. Chapman is here. She
takes hold of the work as early & naturally as if she had
been away a month, and with all the spirit of a fresh
hand. She is looking very well indeed. Farewell.
Will you kindly post the accompanying for R.D. Webb?

Truly Yours, Saml May Jr.